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LADY GAGA OPENS UP TO METRO ABOUT 'ARTPOP'

MOTHER MONSTER DISCUSSES CONCEPTS BEHIND NEW ALBUM. PAGE 14

metro

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Survival of the fittest. We consult the ultimate crowd connoisseur — a bullfighting expert — about braving the masses on Black Friday.
Post-turkey. From what to buy to what to eat, our guide will help you make the most of the biggest shopping day of the year. PAGE 24-28

**Concerns
mount over
'Knockout'
perception**

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**Jason
Statham
wants to
branch out**

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**What fate
will befall
our 'Temp'
heroine?**

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**Giants, Jets
both face
must-win
matchups**

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TACKLE BLACK FRIDAY

BILLY BECERRA, METRO

1

NEWS

Quoted

"Despite having more than enough money to fairly compensate its workforce, Wal-Mart refuses to do so."

Charles Wowkanech, New Jersey State AFL-CIO President, on Black Friday protests at Walmart

Top 3

What's trending online at Metro.us

1 'Creative ideas for Thanksgiving leftovers'

2 'VIDEO: The worst Black Friday stampedes'

3 'PHOTOS: Failed Thanksgiving meals'

Black Friday



Santas in New York
GETTY IMAGES

March of Santas is canceled

New York's Sidewalk Santas, who for a century have marched up Fifth Avenue the morning after Thanksgiving to collect donations from Black Friday shoppers, are hanging up their suits.

The Sidewalk Santa Parade was an annual tradition organized by the Volunteers of America-Greater New York to raise money for its Hope & Hearth campaign, which last year gave over 1,200 families vouchers for groceries during the holiday season, communications director Rachel Weinstein said.

The tradition began in 1896 when Bal-lington Booth, the son of the Salvation Army founders, traveled by horse-drawn carriage across the city to deliver hot holiday meals to hungry New Yorkers.

Instead of the parade, the group has set up a collection bin at the Plaza Hotel to collect donations from the parents who bring their children to sit on the lap of the Plaza's Santa. **REUTERS**



The New York Police Department is investigating whether the attacks are part of a coordinated effort or a new urban legend. / GETTY IMAGES

Group takes aim at 'Knockout Game'

Violence. A Harlem-based group warned against knee-jerk reactions to recent attacks.

A spate of violent attacks being referred to as part of a "Knockout Game" has some New Yorkers concerned.

The "game" involves an attacker punching someone in the head without warning, seemingly choosing their victims at random — though some of the incidents in Brooklyn have

been investigated as possible hate crimes.

Unease has grown, but Khary Lazarre-White, co-founder and executive director of Brotherhood Sister Sol, believes the attacks — and the fear they inspire — represent a larger problem.

The Brotherhood-Sister Sol is a Harlem-based community group that works with young people to help counter negative images of masculinity and to redefine ideas about manhood in a way that is non-violent.

Lazarre-White cautioned against allowing the assaults to provoke knee-jerk fear of or discrimina-

Not racial

"These are the types of incidents that are used to drum up hysteria that is often racialized." Khary Lazarre-White

tion against black teens.

"In fact, the vast majority of crime is committed by grown adult men, not teens," he said.

He also emphasized the importance of not referring to these attacks as a "game."

"It's not a game," he insisted. "I think it's important we call things what they are. These are vicious attacks against innocent people walking

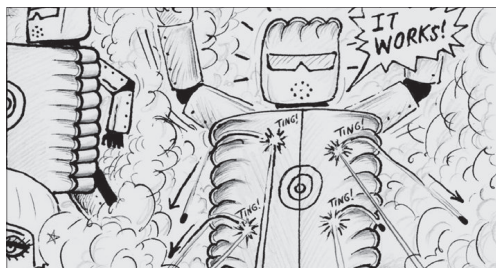
down the street."

The Brotherhood-Sister Sol currently operates in Harlem and the Bronx, but Lazarre-White said that the group is interested in expanding and setting up programs in the Brooklyn neighborhoods where a lot of these attacks are occurring.



DANIELLE TCHOLAKIAN
danielle.tcholakian@metro.us

Searching for a lost graphic novel



A New York artist lost a graphic novel that he had been working on for six years. / ILLUSTRATION BY CHRISTOPHER TUCHENOU

A New York artist is hoping to recover a stolen laptop containing the only copy of a graphic novel he spent six years completing.

Christopher Tuchenou, 35, was at a Lower East Side McDonald's late one night this month when he got up from his seat to get a soda. When he returned, his bag containing the laptop

Stolen comic

"The criminals in this town are pros. The problem is, it is impossible to carry your bag always."

Christopher Tuchenou

was gone.

He called the police. While the responding

officers were friendly, Tuchenou said they admitted he'd probably never see his laptop again.

His next graphic novel will be a parody on Superman's sex life, but he's still hoping someone might be able to help him retrieve the lost one, a Batman parody set in New York City.

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The gifts will be given to children living in city shelters or whose families are getting back on their feet. / MILES DIXON, METRO ARCHIVE

Toys needed for Tony's Metro Magic

Spirit of giving.

Metro and Toys for Tots are still collecting gifts.

Holiday cheer will come to some needy children in New York City on Dec. 14 when Metro, Toys for Tots and The Partnership for the Homeless team up to pass out gifts that have been collected as part of Tony's Metro Magic holiday toy drive.

The annual event is done in coordination with the U.S. Marines, and until this year was overseen by Tony Metcalf, Metro's beloved editor-in-chief. He passed away in June from cancer at 50 years old. The event has been renamed as a tribute to him and how much he loved the toy drive.

Tony's Metro Magic stories will continue to run in the paper up until the gifts are delivered in December. — and there is still plenty of time to purchase gifts that will be passed out to needy

What to give

Metro is collecting new, unwrapped gifts, not clothes.

- Things like action figures, dolls, board games and sports toys, like a football, are always good.
- And don't forget about older children, ages 11 and up. Older children would love to receive an MP3 player, a makeup kit or a poster from their favorite movie this year.
- Spending \$10 or \$20 on a toy or two for a needy child can make a big difference.

Let us know!

If you donate, email us at charity@metro.us letting us know what you gave and we'll shout out a "thank you" in the paper.



children that live in city shelters.

The Metro office is starting to fill with gifts from our readers, but there are many more needy children who don't have any gifts for the holidays.

"I just wanted to give a shout out to Metro and the U.S. Marines for doing a wonderful thing at the

holidays," wrote a reader who bought five gifts for Tony's Metro Magic. "Keep up the great work. I hope the children have a merry Christmas."

This season, we hope you remember that one gift can make a big difference in the life of a child who is spending the holidays homeless or in hardship. **METRO**

How to take part

1 Look for the Tony's Metro Magic logo on our website, Metro.us.

have set up via a secure link on ToysRUs.com.

2 One click on the logo will take you to a "Wish List" we

3 Once there, you can see all the toys we've already requested for kids, and more are

being added daily. Simply select the toys you want and purchase them. That's it! Selecting only the toys on our Wish List ensures that all the gifts will be shipped to our offices.



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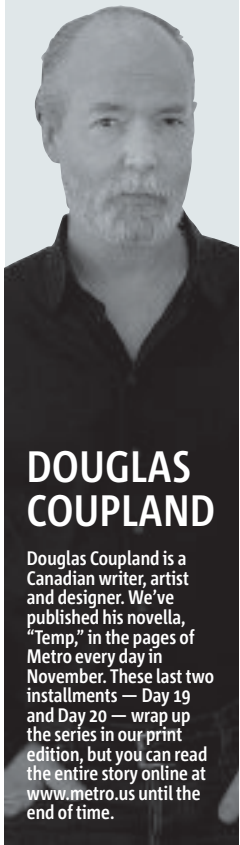
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DOUGLAS COUPLAND

Douglas Coupland is a Canadian writer, artist and designer. We've published his novella, "Temp," in the pages of Metro every day in November. These last two installments — Day 19 and Day 20 — wrap up the series in our print edition, but you can read the entire story online at www.metro.us until the end of time.

Day 19: Temp hits an all-time low



Do you have a special place you go to when you're at an all-time low? Some people have a place. I just drive and drive, past the strip malls, past the light industrial zones and past the fallow fields.

After watching Kyle enter the refinery, I began thinking of the world and how it's changed, even in my short life. Countries like Greece that used to be normal countries, now gutted of their middle class and overnight turned into something new and nameless, a land with no economy but with pretty good coffee and smoking hot Wi-Fi. I got to thinking of bubbles — how all we do these days is lurch from bubble to bubble. Are we in a new bubble? Is the bubble about to burst? I'm afraid of bubbles and I'm sick of bubbles — and yet I'm addicted to bubbles.



Mr. Xu's surprise / COLOURBOX

Go figure.

I drove past the under-construction subdivisions that died in 2008, their 2x4s turned the gray color of moths. I wondered if we're addicted to the idea that society without a middle class isn't really society. I wondered if maybe back in the days of Detroit, jumbo refrigerators and the Beatles we tricked ourselves into thinking that the middle class equals the future — and without a middle class we can't see pictures in our heads of what tomorrow might be. I find it strange how politicians repeat the words "middle

class" over and over and over again, as if doing so will allow us to pretend it still exists, that it's not evaporating daily like a puddle on a road.

Night came and I was anywhere and nowhere when my phone buzzed. It was Mr. Xu — he was back in town! And he had his big surprise all ready for me at his short-term corporate lodging suite.

I couldn't remember the last time I was ever happier to get a text.

I drove to The Executive Privilege Short-Term Corporate Lodging and ran to Room 307, where the nerdy but lovely Mr. Xu awaited me.

"Ah, hello, capitalist lapdog. You be ready for grand surprise?"

"Shut up! I can't believe

you're back!" I gave him a smooch and said, "OK, dial me in. I am ready for your big surprise, buster."

"Apologize in advance if not good enough."

"Show me your surprise!"

"Very well."

A drop cloth concealed what was supposed to be the main living area. Mr. Xu pulled it back and I bathed in the majesty of what I saw.

He said, "Pretty kickass-sexy, don't you think?"

I sucked in some breath and said, "Mr. Xu, you have truly amazed me."

Before me, in beautiful rows and shelves, lay over a thousand unique pairs of sneakers that would crash eBay in a flash if they all went up for sale at once.

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Day 20: Temp figures it all out

If you came here expecting a happy ending, that's exactly what you're going to get. It's a few months later, I'm now Mrs. Xu, there are twin Xus in the offing and the twins will be in line to inherit more than \$1 billion.

I remind myself of this every time I think of the coffee room's Girl Guide chocolate bar honor box, and how horrified I always was to find out staffers had shortchanged it, and how

I paid out the difference from my own pocket.

What about TWK? Don't worry about the old gang — they're doing just fine. The building is now home to Mr. Xu's vanity project (and mine) which is to be the world's largest online retailer of vintage and high-end sneakers.

Sarah No.1 is once again in charge of online marketing development, and Sarah No. 2 is back developing e-commerce strategy. This time, their decisions will have a chance of being implemented and making some kind of difference.

With a slight romantic twist, Sarah No. 3, whom I never really got to know, is seeing Kyle, who quit the refinery af-

ter a week spent inhaling its magic aromas. Kyle is now getting a full sleeve of ink on each arm and is in charge of "Branding Atmosphere" which means — I'll be honest — I have no idea what, but I'm just so glad he's no longer inhaling oil. I'll always have a soft spot for that lovable lunkhead who kind of flirted with me, and whom I kind of flirted with back when we were both younger and dumber.

The Danimal we now call "The Shaker" because we send him out doing anything that involves old-school middle management: people shaking each other's hands, conferences and land leasing and that kind of stuff. It's

a remarkably effective category and he loves it.

Dan and Chantelle split up quite amicably. Chantelle and Darren are engaged and living in the gated community together. Chantelle's lips have shrunk and she looks a tiny bit more human and promises not to get more work done.

And the happiest ending of all is for Kurt, the old guy by the stoplight, who now has his own office out by the delivery bay where his main task is to sit, enjoy life and maybe watch the Carpenters on VHS — he refuses to go online.

So maybe you entered this story expecting there to be a bogeyman — someone whom we can yell at, and whack with



That's all, folks. Go to www.metro.us for the entire series. / COLOURBOX

sticks like a piñata. But there is no bogeyman here. There's only the times we live in, and we can bitch about them or we can move forward, and if you don't move forward, well, you'll be

left behind, left in the past, which makes no sense — because the present is all we have.

And really, how does Kate Winslet manage to always drop those pounds?

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The DIY computer: Yours for only \$99

Components in a box. Kano calls itself a "revolutionary moment."

"Search for the white rabbit," Kano challenges me, providing clues as to where the animal might be. Mere minutes ago, the sleek, orange-fringed computer was a collection of flat-packed components in a box — but with minimal fuss it has been brought to life and taught to recognize its owner. Now it wants to play.

Built around the Raspberry Pi — a no-frills computer on a single circuit board — the Kano promises to make us all creative technologists. It is the product of a London computing start-up of the same

name, and a challenge from company founder Alex Klein's 7-year-old cousin, who wanted computer design to be "like Lego." The final product can be pieced together in 107 seconds, costs \$99 and has generated enough excitement to crowdfund almost triple the original target of \$100,000 within 48 hours, with backers like Apple inventor Steve Wozniak.

"There has been a tension between the specialists and users," says Kano

Quoted

"There are increasing numbers of designers, teachers and parents trying to make things cheaper and more widely available." Keegan

coder Matt Keegan, playing a simple game he has just built on the device. "We want to lower the barrier to entry and empower children."

The machine can serve many functions of a regular laptop — Web browsing, correspondence — but the main appeal lies in teaching non-experts how computers work "under the hood," backers say. Users can code and design software, aided by a child-friendly guidebook that explains every step.

Keegan and other ambassadors have been touring schools worldwide helping kids get started, ahead of coding being added to the U.K. national curriculum. "It's been fantastic — we hear kids saying 'I want to be a developer' and the teachers say they learn almost as much."

International

Versatility gives it appeal

The Raspberry Pi is also versatile: It can be used to power everything from cameras to motion sensors. This helps users to understand computing process and has also raised the Kano's international appeal. Bulk orders have been dispatched to Thailand and Sierra Leone for use in infrastructure projects, and there is ongoing work to make it available in many more languages.



KIERON MONKS
kieron.monks@metro.lu



Coder Matt Keegan, right, with Kano team member Nathan Miller and the core components. / METRO WORLD NEWS

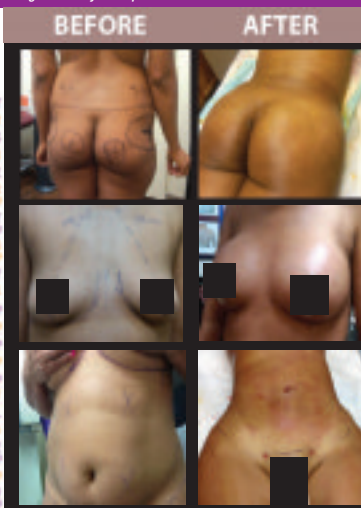
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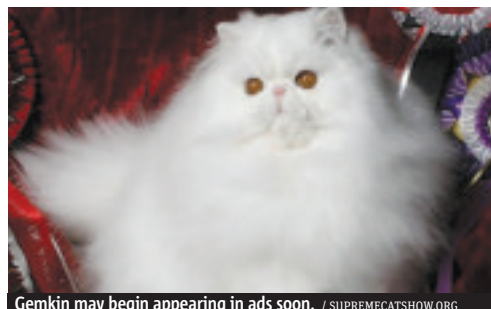
NATIONAL 12

Is this the world's greatest feline?

Top cat. Gemkin Starwind secures domination of prestige show.

Orange-eyed White Persian Gemkin Starwind dominated this year's Supreme Cat Show, one of the world's biggest titles, securing the "Supreme Exhibit" title for the second straight year at the event in Birmingham, England. It continues an astonishing run of competition wins for Gemkin, and his owner Jenny Nicholas was thrilled.

What's Gemkin edge? It's his demeanor and personality, he's such a showman and he just works it. There were



Gemkin may begin appearing in ads soon. / SUPREMECATSHOW.ORG

10 Persians in the adult category with at least five serious contenders, but he just gives it that little bit more when it matters. He has a wonderful personality and nothing phases him.

Has he developed a keen competitive instinct? He senses the occasion right from the start. He has won shows so many

times he just knows it all and likes the attention.

How do you train or prepare him?

We assess all kittens from 4 weeks old, and it's vital to handle them every day at that stage. They have to be used to it, and need that personality where they are happy to be groomed and combed.

Extras

How did you reward him?

He's the king in our house. He eats turkey, beef and chicken every day — he eats better than me. He might get extra now — and a few more toys.

How fierce was the contest? Is it very competitive?

Quite fierce — but you have to rise above the unpleasantness. And Gemkin has a huge amount of support, as he has become very well known.



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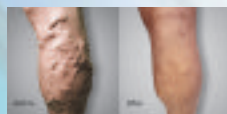
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Rewards. Alcoholics paid in beer to clean Amsterdam's streets

Vagrants had become a headache for Amsterdam social workers. Nothing could move them, and each day they caused more pollution and noisy abuses of passersby. Enter the Rainbow Group with a harm-reduction approach that puts the homeless to work as street cleaners and rewards them with 10 euros, five cans of beer and some tobacco per session. Spokeswoman Jasperine Schupp shares the details of the program.

How well are they doing?

It's not like a scientific study, but we can see severe alcoholics gain weight and they are drinking less. Police and neighbors had tried everything — rehab, activities — and nothing worked. Now they are not hanging in a group screaming at people, and we can see they take pride in their job of cleaning the area. The change has empowered them to make the best of themselves, and they come every day on time, sober and behaving



In action / THE RAINBOW GROUP

more socially.

Is the local community supportive or suspicious?

We do encounter suspicion — not because they are working, but because we give them beer. But this is part of harm reduction: We accept they drink, but guide them to drink less and in a way is less damaging to society. The police are supportive and people in the area are happy.

Branching out

Could the scheme be expanded?

I hope so. In the Netherlands we have had harm reduction for years, but it's complicated because politicians and policymakers are scared to be involved. From a pragmatic point of view, it's a cheap idea. And I hope politicians can treat it sensibly.

What is the recruitment process?

It's a low threshold. If you are in a park making noise, we will approach you. People say yes because they want to be busy, as well as [want] the reward. Looking through the backgrounds of these people, nothing else has worked.

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CULTURE



By the numbers

'ARTPOP' at No. 1

"ARTPOP" is the 27-year-old pop singer's second No. 1 album on the weekly U.S. Billboard 200 album chart. "Born This Way" debuted in the top spot in 2011, selling 1.1 million copies in its opening week, helped by a 99-cent promotion on Amazon.

Lady Gaga was unable to match this year's top-selling debut, Justin Timberlake's "The 20/20 Experience," which sold 968,000 copies in its opening week in March. REUTERS

Lady Gaga's "ARTPOP" shot to the No. 1 slot on the Billboard charts upon its release earlier this month, but the buzz surrounding the third full-length album from Mother Monster was that it didn't bring in the numbers that music industry insiders were hoping for. To be fair, the fact that Gaga's "Born This Way" sold 1.1 million copies in its first week made it a tough act to follow. Selling 258,000 copies in its first week, as "ARTPOP" did, is not too shabby for album sales in 2013.

me can be together, or me and my fans — we can all be together in one space and live despite differences or colors. Pop and art are not in conflict with culture; they are part of each other. So the intention of the album was to put art culture in pop music, a throwback to Andy Warhol.

Give us three words to describe what's behind your concept of "ARTPOP":
Hate, love and sensuality.

The makeovers — are they a disguise? Some

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Lady Gaga is pictured here performing with R. Kelly at the American Music Awards earlier this week. / MICHAEL TRAN, FILMMAGIC

LADY GAGA

The pop star opens up about haters, strength and cultural concepts.

'HATE, LOVE AND SENSUALITY'

Reviews have been a bit harsh for "ARTPOP."

The reviews do not bother me, but the rumors or gossip do. Fame provokes a negative energy that causes instability in me. But I am a woman facing something new every day and, despite constant attacks on me, there is always something good, like my little monsters, who are always there.

Even if this album weren't titled as such, it's obvious that art, pop and culture influences you greatly.
And they blend together. It's like saying that you and

type of shield?

Yes, I have many costumes. [Laughs] That is Lady Gaga. I'm always on the defensive in my professional side. I always wear different clothes and change my outfit to feel stronger. Depending on the day, I am the person I am. If one day I feel weak, I will change my hair three times and I will feel like a superwoman. It doesn't matter the color of the hair — it's what makes me feel like a strong woman.

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"It's hard for me to be satiated with the dramatic aspect of action movies sometimes. Stallone told me, 'We never see you play a vulnerable chap.'"

Statham



Jason Statham plays an ex-DEA agent fighting small town locals in "Homefront." / GETTY IMAGES

He actually enjoys doing comedy

Interview. In person, Jason Statham is quite a good deal less terrifying than he is on-screen.

"Homefront" was supposed to star its writer, Sylvester Stallone. "Sly had written it in '08, so it had been beautifully gathering dust," explains Jason Statham. The two were working on "The Expendables 2" when Stallone revealed he was too busy to make it. Statham nicked it from him, and now he's the one who plays an ex-DEA agent who's moved to a small town, only to piss off the wrong locals.

"If you look at all the great things he's written — 'Cliffhanger,' all the 'Rocky's, all the 'Rambo's — he's a writer by trade," Statham says. "You just think, 'How do you have the time, to be the big movie star, the writer and the director? And be a dad. And go to the gym every day. It's inhumanly possible. It's a pretty big list of things to be good at.'"

Statham is no slacker himself, routinely popping up in action fare; this is his fourth film this year,

if you count his walk-on at the end of "Fast & Furious 6," setting him up as the villain of the seventh, which is still shooting. But even ignoring his age (46), it's important for him to branch out. His last film, "Redemption," was even mostly a drama, with him as an ex-soldier plagued with PTSD.

"It's hard for me to be satiated with the dramatic aspect of action movies sometimes," he confesses. "Stallone told me, 'We never see you play a vulnerable chap. We never see you smile and be nice towards a little girl. You're always seen as this cold-blooded killer.'" (Stallone probably didn't use the word "chap," as Statham does often.)

In person, Statham is closer to his characters in Guy Ritchie's "Lock, Stock

and Two Smoking Barrels" (his film debut) and "The Italian Job" — a boisterous joker with a great laugh that's deployed frequently. He loves comedies and is even pursuing one, which he can't talk about (lest he ruin the deal).

"I'm not a traditional actor. I'm not a guy who came from drama school. I'm not going to play the complicated lawyer," he says. "I'm a worker. I like to work. I enjoy what I do. And sometimes what's in front of you isn't exactly the greatest thing in the world, but I always have something inside me going, 'This would be fantastic.' Otherwise I wouldn't do it."



MATT PRIGGE
matt.prigge@metro.us

On Franco

One 'busy bee'

"Homefront" also pairs him with another prolific freak: James Franco, who plays a small-town meth king who decides to make Statham's character's life hell — and ensures that come the end there will not be a fair fight. "He's an interesting chap,"

Statham says. "We had to release him every Friday so he could teach at some college. It was Monday through Thursday, then he has to get on a plane so he can teach a class, then come back and buy some more paint to do his artwork. He's quite the busy bee." (Wait, Franco's also a teacher? And a painter?)

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At least Elba rules in 'Mandela'

Biopic. The first near-life-spanning Nelson Mandela movie should have run between four and 10 hours.

148 minutes isn't that long to cover an entire life. In fact, it's too short. Ideally "Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom" — the first biopic to span almost all of the South African freedom fighter's life, after many that focused on isolated events — would run somewhere between four and 10 hours. Not that every bit of his life needed to be filmed. It's that the project is madly ambitious in a way that it can't quite handle in "only" 2 1/2 hours.

Despite a super-length, this is one fast-paced movie. Director Justin Chadwick's cameras dart quickly through quick

edits that take us from one event to the next with lightning fast efficiency. Well, maybe not efficiency: That implies that it gets the job done. This is more rushed. This isn't an experimental narrative that knows we know the story, and so skips over key details. It's a failed traditional biopic that feasts on our time and sends the ignorant to Wikipedia anyway.

What rankles further is this: Idris Elba is a fantastic Mandela. He may be more Idris Elba than Mandela, truthfully. He's swaggering and sexy in his womanizing youth, in a way that nearly disguises that every line of dialogue is inelegantly expository. When he ages, he falls back on his cucumber cool. These are two modes at which Elba has always excelled, and he and Naomie Harris, as a fiery and playful Winnie Mandela, have such great chemistry in their



Idris Elba and Naomie Harris embrace in "Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom." / KEITH BERNSTEIN

Review

'Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom'

Director: Justin Chadwick

Stars: Idris Elba, Naomie Harris

Rating: PG-13



courtship period that it hurts even more when they spend most of their lives/screen time separated.

Then again, it doesn't have the ability (or time) to figure out how to handle Winnie's later years. She stays angry even when the newly-freed husband she barely knows is promoting peace on both sides, and spends the third act seething with a drink in hand. In a year when black stories were finally told by black filmmakers ("The Butler," "12 Years a Slave," "Black Nativity"), this is a step back: a purely plot-driven docudrama directed and written by white men, with a U2 song at the end. But there are times, brief they may be, when it seems this could have been the most vital of the year's lot.



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Musical drama. A Christmas classic gets a semi-adaptation.

Not a lot of Langston Hughes' "Black Nativity" winds up in "Black Nativity," and that's fine. The Christmas staple was itself a reworking of existing material — the birth of Jesus — for a gospel setting. The film version goes much further. It's present day, and Jacob Latimore plays a Baltimore youth actually named Langston. His mom (Jennifer Hudson) can no longer provide for him and, for Christmas, she decides to pack him off to her long-estranged parents: the stern Reverend Cobbs (Forest Whitaker), who presides over a Harlem church, and his much nicer wife (Angela Bassett).

This is an unwieldy film, both ambitious and too modest, bold and sloppy. It's also a part-time musical. Those scenes aren't always smoothly integrated, and not just because Whitaker really doesn't look like he wants to sing, as he's forced to do briefly and weakly.

But sincerity wins out. Writer/director Kasi Lemmons ("Eve's Bayou")



Forest Whitaker tries to advise his grandson (Jacob Latimore) in "Black Nativity." / FOX SEARCHLIGHT

See more at
www.metro.us

Review

'Black Nativity'

Director: Kasi Lemmons

Stars: Jacob Latimore, Forest Whitaker

Rating: PG



wants to use Hughes to reflect on the modern day black experience, and do so without making it palatable for white audiences. Even with singers present (Mary J. Blige, Nas), it's the non-singers who excel. Whitaker is more than an authority figure, while Tyrese Gibson, as a street thug with a secret, gets a few commanding scenes.

MATT PRIGGE

Yum. Fuel up for Black Friday with these special lunches

We know you're gonna shop 'til you drop on Black Friday — we just don't want you to drop due to hunger. After a day of turkey with all the trimmings, food might be the last thing on your mind, but you have to eat to keep up your shopping stamina. Hit one of these spots for a special Black Friday meal.

Anyone in Saks Fifth Avenue on Friday needs a little break from the stampedes. On the eighth floor lies **Cafe SFA** (611 Fifth Avenue, 8th Floor, 212-940-4080), where Chef Alex Reyes serves classy cuisine like lobster salads — perfect for ladies who lunch — and petit filets.

Haru (Multiple locations, www.harusushi.com) is hosting an all-day happy hour at all six of its Manhattan locations. Enjoy \$8 lobster gyoza, short rib buns and wasabi rolls, \$5 shihito peppers and chicken yakitori and

\$8 specialty cocktails. Who wants a Lychetini?

The Black Friday brunch at **Telepan** (72 W. 69th St., 212-580-4300) features chef Bill Telepan's fancy take on brunch. Savory fans can dive into apple sausage with poached egg, duck prosciutto and watercress, while sweet tooths will gush over pear French toast with brown sugar caramel. More of a lunch muncher? Burgers, steaks and fish round out the \$32-per-person menu.

If you're ready to escape the cold (and who isn't?) **Nerai** (55 E. 54th St., 212-759-5554) promises to transport you from the blustery cold streets of NYC to an outdoor cafe in Mykonos. The restaurant's three-course Black Friday prix fixe lunch (\$32 per person) includes classic Greek dishes like grilled octopus, whole fish and portokalopita — Greek orange pie.



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ALAN AURMONT

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The party continues the day after Thanksgiving at **Preserve24** (175-177 E. Houston St., 646-837-6100), which will be hosting a rowdy brunch from 11:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Friday. Scarf down an LES Egg Sandwich (runny egg, fried oyster and smoked oyster) with your Bloody Mary.

For those who need a little snack to power through the afternoon, new Spanish joint **100 Montaditos** will serve \$1 montaditos (Spanish sand-

wiches), appetizers, and drinks from 11 a.m.-4 a.m.

Did the holiday come with some big news? Continue the celebration at **Bagatelle** (1 Little W. 12th St., 212-488-2110), which is offering a caviar-oyster-champagne special until 6 p.m. Twelve oysters, caviar and a glass of Moët will set you back \$59.

And if you're shopping in Bryant Park, save your Winter Village receipts — you'll need them for dinner at **Appetito Ristorante** (47 W. 39th St., 212-391-5286). You'll score 20 percent off your meal if you present your same-day receipt to your server.

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Holiday matinees

Skip the movies, go see a play

Many families adopt the tradition of seeing a movie together over Thanksgiving weekend. And no one can deny them the right to sit back and let their delicious dinners (and second dinners) digest.

But New Yorkers have a bonus option: live theater. Many productions have added matinees — typically on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays — to Black Friday.

Some popular options for the whole family are “Annie,” “Big Fish,” “Kinky Boots,” “Matilda,” “The Lion King” and “Cinderella.”

A few shows will even be running on Thanksgiving, including “Once,” “Chicago” and “The Phantom of the Opera.” There are also extra shows on the calendar Christmas week. Find complete holiday listings at Broadway.org. **T. MICHELLE MURPHY**



Parker, right, nearly steals the show in MTC's “The Commons of Pensacola.” / JOAN MARCUS

Sarah Jessica Parker appears right at home in ‘Pensacola’

Stage. And you thought seeing your family this weekend would be traumatic?

As Becca, a struggling actress, Sarah Jessica Parker makes the ordinary seem extraordinary in Manhattan Theatre Club's “The Commons of Pensacola.” Not that it's ordinary for your father to be convicted for Bernie Madoff-style embezzlement — or for a stash of cash to be sitting in your mother's freezer. But much of Becca's time is spent navigating

tinderbox relationships with her kin. And without fireworks, Parker immerses herself in this role, taking on Becca's burdens with a dedication as all-encompassing as it is nonchalant.

Becca's mother, Judith (a spirited Blythe Danner), is doing just fine, thank you very much. It seems her husband had given her more than enough untraceable currency to get by after his demise; her condo is not luxurious, but she's hardly roughing it — especially with the help of her “maid,” Lorena (Nijla Sun).

Becca and her much younger boyfriend Gabe (Michael Stahl-David) have come for Thanksgiving, soon joined by her niece, Lizzy (Zoe Levin), followed by Lizzy's mother, Ali (Ali Marsh). When Gabe pitches to Judith a documentary he and Becca would like to produce about her, you can't help but question his motives.

If you go

‘The Commons of Pensacola’

Through Jan. 26
Manhattan Theatre Club
NY City Center Stage I
131 W. 55th St.
\$105
212-581-1212
www.nycitycenter.org

It's hard not to think of Woody Allen's “Blue Jasmine” while watching “Pensacola,” and, truth be told, the Allen film has more to it. Still, actress Amanda Peet, testing the waters as a playwright, injects enough conflict, color and humor to make this show engaging.

Mother, boyfriend, niece and sister all throw Becca challenges that Parker handles with honesty and aplomb.

MICHAEL BRACKEN
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Fake celebrity discussions over Thanksgiving break

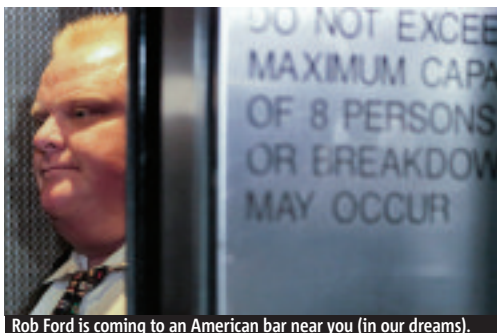
What do the rich and famous do over Thanksgiving break? They probably don't do what we do, which is hang out in our hometown bars, drinking cheap domestics with people from high school. But — what if they did? For this special Black Friday Word, Metro staffers imagined what kind of discussions the rich and famous have at their hometown dives.



Do not mess with Kanye's stuffing recipe.

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

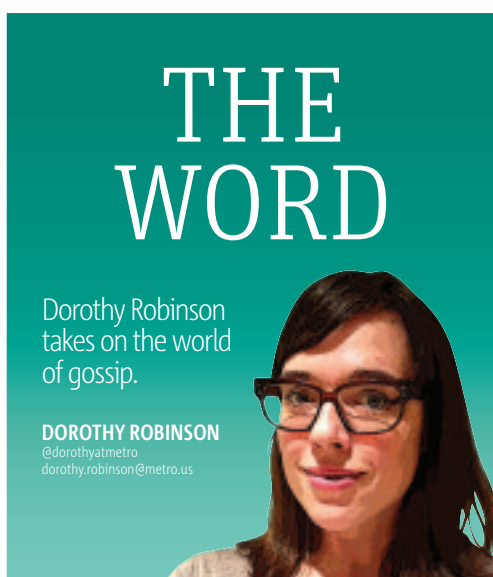
"I'ma let you finish that Pabst, bro, but I have to tell you: I'm pretty sure my Thanksgiving stuffing recipe is the best recipe of all time. **OF ALL TIME.**" High art genius Kanye West



Rob Ford is coming to an American bar near you (in our dreams).

"Good to see everyone, eh? So you guys remember that weird older dude Doug we used to buy drugs from in high school? Oh man, I know! Us crazy kids, eh? But uh, yeah, anyone keep in touch with that guy? Asking for a friend."

Rob Ford [Editor's note: We know Canadian Thanksgiving is in October; please grant us this creative license that he hangs out in American townie bars when he's home on break this weekend.]



More quoted

"Yeah, everyone is totally buying this sweet goofy girl act! Whatever, more money in my pocket. God, I hate my fans."

Jennifer Lawrence

"Wait, what?! You prefer the dark meat? Oh, hell no! Bartender, keep the White Russians comin' sugar."

Paula Deen

"Oh man, bro, last time I saw you, we were, what, in middle school? Can't believe it's been five years!"

Justin Bieber

"Guys, I know it's not like me to walk away from a fight, but if I get nabbed one more time for beating somebody up, I'll go away for a long time. Let's just chill, get another pitcher of Miller Lite and play some Keno."

Chris Brown

"Soooo, do you have SnapChat?"

Anthony Weiner



In our alternate reality, Beyoncé catches up with Kelly and Michelle — and buys drinks from them.

"Oh ... Kelly and Michelle. Hi! Um, how long have you guys been working here?" Beyoncé



Miley will probably make this kitten do some Jagerbombs.

"I don't know, y'all. Have I made enough of a statement this year that I am finally a woman?" Miley Cyrus



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Black Friday without the bull

Running to the mall. The shopping can get nasty, so we asked an unlikely expert for advice on how to handle the crowds.

If you look up Black Friday on YouTube, you're bound to find videos with terrifying titles like "Black Friday Fights" or "Black Friday Disasters." As with other extreme sports, you need to prepare for Black Friday shopping. We went to the best: Mark Hellmann Regouby. Is Regouby an experienced Black Friday shopper? Not really. But he'll do you one better: He's the founder of the travel company Running of the Bulls, Inc., which puts tourists up close and personal with the animals at the annual event in Pamplona, Spain. Here's his advice for braving big crowds.



This is what it's like in Pamplona, Spain, in July — but it's eerily similar to the malls on Black Friday. / PABLO BLAZQUEZ DOMINGUEZ, GETTY IMAGES

Getting ready

Before you go in

"Watch the Bull Run first ... and understand the flow of the people and the bulls," says Regouby. This is where the aforementioned YouTube search for Black Friday comes in handy. But the preparation

doesn't stop here.

"The No. 1 rule is to arrive sober," he says. "No. 2 is to get a good night's sleep. No. 3 is to have 360-degree awareness. Always try to be aware of who is in front, behind and beside you. ... Get a sense of being in the place."

If you go down

There have only been 15 deaths since the beginning of the Bull Run in Pamplona in 1910 and the National Retail Federation has only reported one Black Friday trampling death: In 2008, a Wal-Mart employee was crushed in a stampede. Neither are as deadly as you'd think, but what do you do if you fall?

"Stay down," says Regouby. "The bulls are actually talented at stepping over obstacles."

The people waiting in the cold to buy stuff at discount prices are probably not talented at stepping over obstacles though, so just roll to safety!

When you succeed

Regouby says that a run like the one in Pamplona is for people who want to be in touch with their own mortality.

"I've done it four times and it's still pretty incredible," he says. "You arrive in this huge arena and the sun hits your face and the air is fresh again, and you can't believe you are alive." Sounds kind of like getting into the car with everything crossed off your gift list before anyone in your family is awake, doesn't it?

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calumetphoto.com/gifts

Black Friday, I'm ready

Savings savior. The Coupon Mom is here to help you.

Stephanie Nelson, better known as Coupon Mom, shares three essential tips on snagging the best deals on Black Friday:

Plan your budget

This seems like a no-brainer, but jumping into Black Friday without a plan can mean overspending on things you don't need. Instead, draft a list of gift recipients and what you want to buy for them.

"Figure out how much you want to spend and stick with that, then divide your budget among your gift recipients," says Nelson. "And plan your store strategy — you can't get to every store when the

doors open." Nelson also suggests googling "Black Friday ads" to see which stores have good deals that match your gift list.

Skip the mall

Really? Skip the mall on Black Friday? Believe it or not, Nelson says you can find even better deals outside the big shopping centers. "Prices for the things you need are probably going to be as good or perhaps lower at other retailers," says Nelson, not to mention fewer crowds. Nelson loves to hit national drug store chains on Black Friday, like CVS, Walgreens and Rite Aid. "These stores have items that are free — I counted up 83 free deals between the three stores."

These deals include items like name-brand cosmetics, nail polish, snacks and disposable cameras, which

make great stocking stuffers. Nelson suggests getting creative and putting together themed gift baskets, like a basket of cosmetics and nail polishes for a teenage niece. Nelson also points out that these stores sometimes offer automatic rebates.

Compare prices on all fronts

Use search engines to compare prices when shopping online. In stores, Nelson likes to use price comparison apps on her smartphone. "You can scan the barcode in the store and it will tell you competitors' prices for the same item," she says. RedLaser is one popular app, but Nelson recommends comparing different apps to find the best fit for you. Visit www.metro.us for a roundup of the best apps for finding Black Friday deals!

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Where and when to get Black Friday deals

Local. Pick your neighborhood and get shopping.

Holiday shopping in the retail Mecca of Manhattan is daunting enough. If you're braving shopping in any of the boroughs on Friday, here's where to go.

Scoop NYC

Where: 1275 Third Ave., 212-535-5577
When: Nov. 28-Dec. 3.
Deals: This fashion boutique is offering 25 percent off designer items, in-store and online.

Express

When: Through Dec. 12
Deals: Express has pretty much made Black Friday a month-long celebration. The SoHo, Flatiron, Herald Square and Madison Avenue locations will all be open on Thanksgiving Day too. Since Nov. 13, the stores have been offering \$10 off any shoe purchase and 25 percent off watches. But the best deals come on Cyber Monday: Everything online will be 40 percent off.

Con Artist Collective and Gallery

Where: 119 Ludlow St.
When: Nov. 29, 11 a.m.-10 p.m.
Deals: If you're looking for an alternative to crowded department stores at ungodly hours, Con Artist Collective is converting their Lower East Side gallery into a Black Friday pop-up shop. Local New York artists will be selling cheap vintage or handmade clothing, books, posters and art.

Best Buy

When: Nov. 28, 6 p.m.
Deals: Snag a Kindle Fire for \$99.99, \$100 below retail value. The iPad 2 is also \$100 off, on sale for \$299.99.

Toys "R" Us

Where: 1514 Broadway, 646-366-8800
When: Nov. 28, 5-9 p.m.; Nov. 29, 5 a.m.
Deals: All storewide clearance will be discounted up to 80 percent through Nov. 30. The deals come in waves with different sets of doorbusters. Some of our favorite finds include Razor Scooters for \$19.99, and the LeapFrog Leapster GS Explorer for \$29.99. Another favorite is the name "doorbusters." Like many big boxes, the Toys "R" Us peeps are aware that people actually bust down doors for Black Friday and they don't pretend that any person attending these sales will act like a civil human being during the process. That's honesty!

Kohl's

Where: 61-35 Junction Blvd., Queens, 718-271-8400
When: Nov. 28, 8 p.m.
Deals: While there is no Manhattan Kohl's location, half-off the entire selection of toys may have you running to Queens. In addition, the normally \$229.99 Apex 32-inch HDTV is on sale for \$139.99 in-store only. Bedding is 50 to 70 percent off and you earn \$15 in Kohl's Cash for every \$50 you spend.

Staten Island Mall

Where: 2655 Richmond Avenue, Staten Island, 718-761-6800
When: Nov. 29, 12 a.m. Department stores: Nov. 28, 8 p.m.
What: The Staten Island Mall will have 49 stores and restaurants opening at midnight on Thanksgiving, plus the department store trio of J.C. Penney, Macy's and Sears opening at 8 p.m. on Thursday. With stores like Ann Taylor, Uniqlo, the Disney Store and Victoria's Secret, this could mean one-stop shopping.

Harlem Holi-Pop pop-up shop

Where: RAW Space: 2031 Adam Clayton Blvd.
When: Nov. 30-Dec 1, 12-8 p.m.



What: Fashion and film makeup artist Melanie Harris and celebrity stylist Carlton Jones have teamed up to gather local and global artisans, vendors and designers this Black Friday weekend. Holi-Pop will offer unique and affordable beauty products, clothing, accessories, shoes and more. Hennessy-sponsored cocktails, African wine and DJs will keep shoppers entertained all weekend long.

BCBGMAXAZRIA

Where: 168 5th Ave., 212-989-7307
When: Nov. 27-Dec. 2
Deals: All BCBGMAXAZRIA locations are offering 50 percent off holiday must-have items, such as coats, clutches and gloves. From store opening until noon on Black Friday, customers get \$100 off purchases of \$300.

Tommy Bahama

Where: 551 5th Ave., 212-537-0956
When: Nov. 29, 11 a.m.-9 p.m.
Deals: Tommy Bahama's midtown location will offer free coconut hot chocolate this Black Friday, regardless of whether you make a purchase. They'll do it again for the Rockefeller Tree Lighting on Dec. 4.

LXR & Co. pop-up shop

Where: 112 Wooster St.,



Will you be able to brave the masses for some on-sale toys?
Of course you will! / TOM PENNINGTON, GETTY IMAGES

917-580-0870

When: Nov. 29-Dec. 2
Deals: This Beverly Hills favorite is coming to NYC for the holidays. Luxury vintage curator LXR & Co. regularly offers discounts on designer vintage accessories. So, while you can expect up to 80 percent off major brands before Black Friday discounts, take an extra 5 percent off everything in stores on Nov. 29. Louis Vuitton, Gucci, Prada and Céline products will be an additional 25 percent off in-store.

Throughout the weekend, an additional 25 percent discount will be offered on all items.

C. Wonder

Where: 72 Spring St., 212-219-3500
When: Nov. 29, 8 a.m.-9 p.m.
Deals: The first 50 Black Friday customers will receive scratch-off cards for an additional 10 to 20 percent off. All customers will receive 40 percent off purchases of four items or more.

Topshop & Topman

Where: 478 Broadway, 212-966-9555
When: Nov. 29, 8 a.m.-10 p.m.
Deals: Black Friday early birds will receive gift cards ranging from \$20 to \$500 to spend in-store the same day. With every purchase over \$75, you'll receive either a Topshop makeup set or a Topman grooming cap. DJs will spin throughout the weekend.
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DECEMBER 5, 2013

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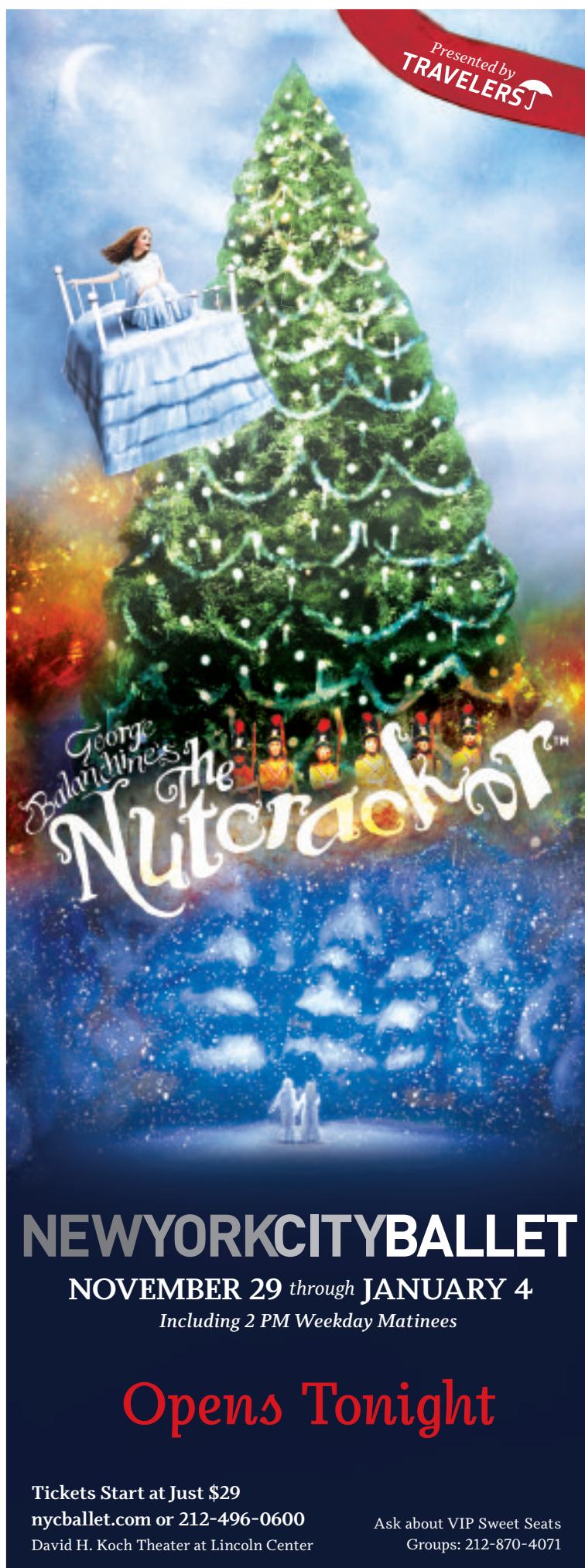
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Every year, hundreds brave cold temperatures and sacrifice hours they'd normally spend sleeping for some discounts. / NICOLAUS CZARNECKI, METRO

This is where the sales are, America!

National. People line up outside of big box retailers for a good reason.

It's hard to say which comes first, an empty wallet or aching feet, but Black Friday shopping at chain and big box stores can mean big savings.

Target's Black Friday sale starts Thursday at 8 p.m. and runs through closing on Saturday. Door-buster deals include a bonus \$75 Target gift card with purchase of an iPad Mini Wi-Fi 16 GB (\$299) or \$100 gift card with an iPad Air Wi-Fi 16 GB (\$479). Other deals: Beats by Dre Solo HD headphones (\$119, usually \$179.99), Nikon L320 camera (\$99, usually \$229.99), and Nintendo 3DS XL Game System (\$149.99, usually \$199.99). In the toy department, there's 50 percent off select items,

including **Monster High**, **Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles**, **Lalaloopsy** and **Our Generation**, when purchasing one at full price. (The two toys must be of the same brand; the discount will be applied to the lower-priced item.)

Among the many discounts at **Macy's**, select Rampage boots are discounted from \$69 to \$19. Friday, **The GAP** opens at 6 a.m. for 50 percent discounts on most stock; Saturday shoppers get 40 percent off their entire purchase. **Forever 21's** Black Friday sale means up to 50 percent off select items and yellow tag deals with gifts starting at \$3. **Juicy Couture** customers receive a free mug with a purchase of \$100 or more. **Justice** has 50 percent off most merchandise. At **Fresh** stores, get a free Fresh Life Rollerball with

any \$100 purchase. Spend \$40 at **Bath & Body Works** and get a VIP Tote Bag (\$100 value) for \$20. And, **Nordstrom Rack** gives a \$15 gift card when you spend more than \$100. **Yankee Candle's** deals include 7-ounce jar candles (\$5) for the first four hours on Friday.

At **Ikea**, Black Friday deals include Expedite shelving units at \$19.99 (regularly \$39.99) and 50 percent off at the Swedish Food Market when you spend \$100 in the store. Saturday is the day for discounted Diner dinnerware (\$4.99, normally \$9.99). Sunday, a Benno TV unit is \$40 off (\$39.99, regular \$79.99). Soft toys are 50 percent off all weekend, and for each toy sold, **IKEA Foundation** donates \$1 to charity.



LINDA LABAN
linda.laban@metro.us

Baby, it's cold outside!

Don't feel like leaving home?

Let your fingers do the walking. Black Friday madness isn't for everyone, but don't miss out on these e-commerce deals: During the holidays, **Gourmet Gift Baskets** comes into its own with more than 400 varieties of goodie-packed baskets to suit all tastes. They make great hostess

gifts, too. From midnight on Thanksgiving through the weekend, there's 20 percent off everything and free shipping. Who wouldn't want a Mini Christmas Basket (originally \$24.99), the handy Christmas Morning Breakfast Gift Basket (\$79.99) or top shelf Cakebread Vineyard Tour Wine Gift Basket? The Gourmet Gift Towers (\$34.99-\$69.99) are

cute stacked gift boxes tied together, already wrapped and picture perfect.

At **Wayfair.com**, online Black Friday bargains include \$50 off All-Clad's Belgian Waffle Maker (\$129.95, was \$179.95), \$30 off a Keurig Elite Brewing System (\$89.95, was \$119.95) and \$40 off a Stiga Legacy Table Tennis Table (\$332.99, normally \$372.95).

Reclaiming the baggage claim



Luggage. Elizabeth Jeffer's online destination helps us travel in style.

In spite of all the runways, the airport has never been much of a fashion show — especially during the frenetic holiday travel period. But Elizabeth Jeffer, founder of online travel and accessories boutique Roztayger, is blending style and practicality with her selection of bags and accessories. Jeffer has searched the world for designers who emphasize craftsmanship, functionality and modern, streamlined style.

ANISA ARSENAULT
letters@metro.us



Expert tip

Keep your leather glossy

In most cases a damp cotton cloth will clean well. If the leather is dry after that, Jeffer says to apply a leather moisturizer. Her pick: Penguin Leather Lotion.

Travel companions

Jeffer's top picks

1 J. Panther Luggage Co. The Ruc Tote

"This is a personal favorite of mine for traveling overseas. It's a unisex bag that is rugged enough to hold all your carry-on items such as files, laptop, iPad, cords, a few magazines and some toiletries. The added bonus is that you can carry it three ways — a great way to avoid body pain from overpacking." \$590

2 Porter Tanker tote

"The Japanese brand makes some of the high-

est quality bags around. The Tanker tote is an easy over-the-shoulder bag with so many pockets both inside and out. You pay a bit more for Porter bags, but you get it back in longevity and quality of design and usefulness." \$296

3 Clare Vivier wallet

"Having a large, colorful wallet that can contain your ticket and passport is key when traveling. I get really nervous when I have to rummage so I always try to carry a brightly colored or metallic wallet that I can spot easily or use later as an evening

clutch." \$105

4 Bellroy travel wallet

"This fits the bill for men. It accommodates all travel documents and also has a tiny pen that slips into the wallet fold for convenience." \$119

5 Frrry "Frrry has these

fantastic collapsible bags: Collapse 2 and Collapse 3. You can actually flatten them to maybe 2 inches and put them in your suitcase. It's a good one to pack if you want to come home with more stuff, or go for a short trip within your trip." \$342-\$472

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- On December 3, we will run a photo spread of some of the great moustaches submitted.

- A winner will be randomly selected to win a prize from The Standing Room by Heights + Kenchi!

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The duo has created the "I Married Me Self-Wedding In A Box," which is exactly what it sounds like. Now you can exchange vows and a ring

with the person who matters most in your life, taking the mantra of "you doing you" to another level.

The kit comes complete with a wedding ring, vows that you can exchange with yourself and daily affirmations to remind you what an amazing a partner you are. Prices range from \$45 to \$300, depending on if you want to treat yourself to a silver or gold ring.

"Many people have equated it with an idea of being frivolous," Powers explained. "It's absolutely not about that."

Powers said they came up with the idea after her mother had passed

away near her birthday and they wanted to do a celebration to honor her mother while still recognizing Powers' birthday.

They later held a mass self-marriage ceremony during their own wedding. Guests read vows reminding themselves to be positive in their own lives, and then they received a ring as a wedding favor — a symbol of their guests' commitment to being a better person.

"There's a lot of evidence that when you are more optimistic, when you are able to rise above, it gives you the resources to be able to cope better when things are harder," she explains. "We want to give people that sense of reminder and that reaffirmation that they are going to be OK."

Levin adds that they have facilitated about 250 self-marriages so far, some in events like their wedding and others for smaller groups. They decided to make the kits and raise

What comes in a Self-Wedding In-A-Box?

One Handcrafted Self-Wedding Ring
Available in sterling silver, rose, yellow, and white gold.

Ceremony Instructions & VOWS

Daily Affirmation Cards

If you like it, then you can put a ring on it — on yourself, that is. / PROVIDED

money for the project on the crowdfunding site Indiegogo to spread the idea further to the masses.

The couple admits that many people have wondered if this is another "crazy Californian idea," but points out that the idea of self-marriage exists in some cultures — for

example, in some African tribes. While self-weddings aren't legally binding in the U.S., Colorado does legally allow you to marry yourself and a partner.

Powers hopes that people will pick a special day for themselves and renew their vows often.

"In a very authentic way, we're rooting into what makes them special," she explains.

"It's something that we believe in, and it's powerful," Levin says.

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Long-term. One man looks for his missed connection on Craigslist, 40 years after their meet-cute

A wistful 58-year-old English professor posted a missed connection on Craigslist after 40 years. The 1973 encounter sounds like something out of a movie: The man met a woman in Grand Central Station and was struck by her appearance. "You had the blondest hair I had ever seen and a plaid dress. I had never seen a plaid dress before," he wrote. He said that he doesn't know how he mustered up the courage to approach the young woman, but he did and he asked her if she was lost. The two were meant to go home for Thanksgiving that night, but instead they ended up missing their bus and train, much to the chagrin of their families.

The man reminisced about that rainy day in New York: beers at a cheap bar and then back to his LES dorm room. He also added that aside from a letter with no return address, he never heard from her again after the night they spent together.



Quoted

"My life has known its share of triumphs and heartaches. ... Against my better judgment, I haven't forgotten that day."

— Craigslist missed connection about a date in 1973

The man wrote that he has been married twice and is a proud father, but he still thinks about that rainy day before Thanksgiving. "My life has known its share of triumphs and heartaches, of love and loss," he wrote. "Against my better judgement, I haven't forgotten that day — and, at least once a year, while mowing the lawn or reading a newspaper, the details come back to me."

Why is he writing to her now? "I know that there is nothing more exciting yet rare in life than making a true connection with someone. I have always been too sentimental for my own good, but in all honesty, I have never felt more at ease with anyone than I did laughing and talking to you in that dimly lit Midtown bar," he wrote.

After the post went viral on Reddit, the man took it down from Craigslist. Still, we hope he finds his mystery woman again.

ANDREA PARK

Horoscope

♐ **Sagittarius** | Nov. 22-Dec. 21. Mingle with your peers and find out where you stand. Share your thoughts, but keep your personal preferences a secret.

♑ **Capricorn** | Dec. 22-Jan. 20. Keep your emotions in check. You will have chances to meet potential partners if you mingle.

♒ **Aquarius** | Jan. 21-Feb. 18. A lack of communication isn't always a bad thing. Take time to think about the way you feel and what you want to convey before you make a move that may limit future discussions.

♓ **Pisces** | Feb. 19-March 20. Lend a helping hand, and you will end up receiving as much in return. A personal partnership will undergo emotional stress.

♈ **Aries** | March 21-April 20. Set up investments that will give you a tax break. An emotional issue due to an unpredictable incident is likely to influence you.

♉ **Taurus** | April 21-May 21. Take care of personal business and discuss your plans with anyone who will be affected by the decisions you make. Expand your interests.

♊ **Gemini** | May 22-June 20. Do your best to help others, but don't meddle. A physical activity will help you feel rejuvenated.

♋ **Cancer** | June 21-July 22. Look at the way others live and the differences. Sharing your philosophy will encourage new friendships.

♌ **Leo** | July 23-Aug. 22. Listen to any complaints being made at home and show compassion for anyone going through a tough time. Your attentiveness in matters will help change the way someone thinks of you.

♍ **Virgo** | Aug. 23-Sept. 22. Personal investing will lead to victory. Suggestions you make will put you in the driver's seat at meetings.

♎ **Libra** | Sept. 23-Oct. 22. Sensitive issues at home or at work will leave you questioning your next move. Don't procrastinate. Don't let emotions intervene.

♏ **Scorpio** | Oct. 23-Nov. 21. A secret is likely to be divulged. Protect your reputation, assets and future prospects. Personal changes must be given thought. **BERNICE BEDE OSOL**

Sudoku: Easy and hard

	3	1		5	9			
4						6		
	7				1			5
		2	9		8	3	4	6
9	8	3	2		4	1		
5			4				8	
		9						1
			1	7		4	6	

9			3		7			
	5	6			2		4	
			8					7
	9	2			4			
5	3	7				2	9	6
		4				7	3	
6					8			
	7		2			3	6	
			9		6			4

How to play
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Letters

Don't judge JFK's politics by just a few actions

Re: 'JFK would be a Republican' (Metro, Nov. 26) Letter writer Tom Ward cleverly cherry-picks the career of JFK and concludes that he would today be a Republican. The fact is, almost any long-term political career could be parsed or twisted into the support of one party or the other. Ronald Reagan could easily be called a Democrat based on decisions he made at various times during his career. Some clarification is in order regarding the Civil Rights Act of 1964. This Act was proposed by JFK, and then LBJ, and enjoyed wide-spread bipartisan

support. While supported in the legislature by both parties, it was obstructed, mainly by Democrats, in the South. It was widely rejected by Southern Democrats and Republicans alike. In the House, 93 percent of Southern Democrats and 100 percent of Southern Republicans opposed it. In the Senate, 95 percent of Southern Democrats and 100 percent of Southern Republicans opposed it. Over all, the bill passed with large majorities with the final tally differing by the relative size of their Southern blocs: Just over 60 percent of Democrats and 80 percent of Republicans supported it.

STEPHEN HARDY, VIA EMAIL

letters@metro.us

Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words. Metro reserves the right to edit all letters. Please include your name and contact info.

Online

You can use your smartphone to discover today's crossword answers — right now! Download and open the Blippar app on your smartphone and hold the screen over the puzzle — it's that easy!



Crossword

Across

- 1 Honda rival
- 7 Country adverb
- 10 Tussock animal
- 14 Eugene's state
- 15 NOW cause
- 16 Cookie Bumstead's neighbor
- 17 Reveal
- 18 Mountain pass
- 19 Isle of exile
- 20 Feel frustrated (3 wds.)
- 23 Whims
- 26 Belly dance instrument
- 27 Tables
- 28 Herr's abode
- 29 Kind of tent
- 30 LII, twice
- 31 Luau strings
- 32 Playground game
- 33 Lascaux attraction (2 wds.)
- 37 Lo — graphics
- 38 Mr. Vigoda
- 39 Lyric poem
- 40 Plunging neckline
- 41 Besets
- 43 Menacing sound
- 44 Uncertainties
- 45 Sgt.
- 46 Compass dir.
- 47 Dart
- 48 Cut a wide —
- 51 JFK watchdog

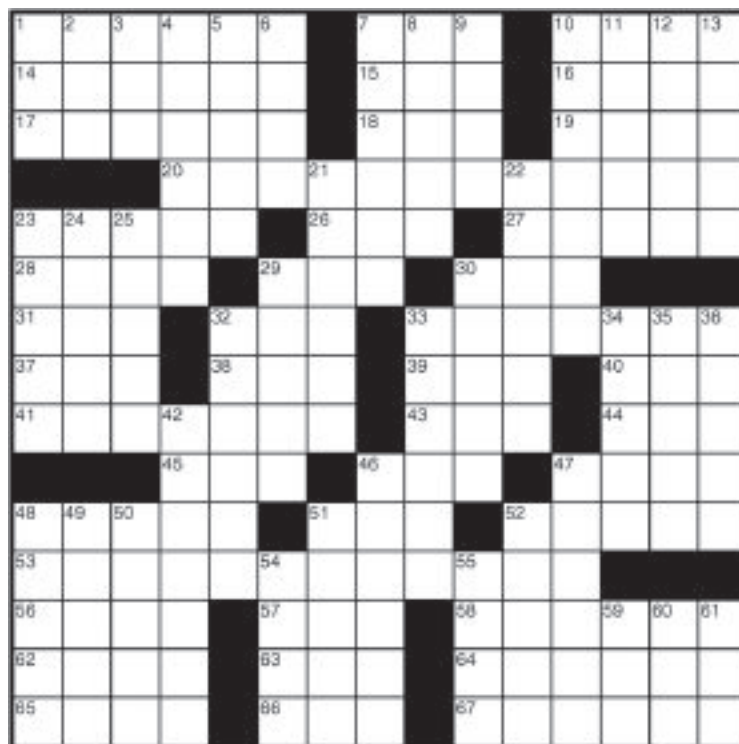
Down

- 2 Ushers' quests
- 3 Eye's delight
- 5 Comparable
- 7 Tar's reply
- 8 Wallet stuffer
- 9 Freshman, usually
- 10 Gibson of "Braveheart"
- 11 Cloudy
- 12 Best or Ferber
- 13 Hesitant sounds
- 14 Break camp
- 1 Not her
- 2 Aleta's son
- 3 Hebrew letter
- 4 Some marbles
- 5 Washes down
- 6 "Lonely Boy" singer
- 7 Win back
- 8 Fern foliage
- 9 Broad valley
- 10 Queen's home
- 11 Clay pots
- 12 Sphere of influence
- 13 Jungle warnings
- 14 Beauty aids
- 15 Glass splinter
- 16 "Star Trek" lieutenant
- 17 Long-handled tools
- 18 Ballpark figure
- 19 Cellist — Casals
- 20 Tight-knit team

32 Meditative martial art (2 wds.)

- 33 Fine brandy
- 34 Town near Madrid
- 35 Equip again
- 36 Experiments
- 42 Rabbit ears
- 46 Atelier items
- 47 Tentacle, e.g.
- 48 Aquarium denizen
- 49 Roused from slumber
- 50 Non-earthling
- 51 Vestibule
- 52 Wear jauntily
- 54 Titled lady
- 55 Likelihood
- 59 China's Chou En —
- 60 Place of refuge
- 61 Ham on —

Wednesday's answer



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Desperation starting to sink in on Giants season

NFL. Last week's loss put the Giants behind the ball in the NFC East playoff chase, but they face another division foe.

The Giants desperately want to put the Cowboys loss behind them and bounce back quickly. And luckily for them, they'll be facing a team in the Redskins that's dealing with even more adversity.

Despite having their four-game winning streak halted last week and falling two games behind the NFC East-leading Eagles and Cowboys, the Giants (4-7) will actually head into their Sunday night matchup with the Redskins (3-8) as a team with still-preserved playoff hopes.

"We just have to get over that [Dallas] loss as soon as possible. We still have to get after it ... and come in prepared," said cornerback Terrell



A last-second loss to the Cowboys last week has the Giants playing what will be a very difficult game of catchup in the NFC East. / GETTY IMAGES

By the numbers

12

The Giants are officially 12th in the NFC standings, behind the six playoff teams and Arizona, Philadelphia, Chicago, Green Bay and St. Louis.

Thomas. "We're definitely not going to turn on each other. We're definitely going to keep working together. We've done some great things the last couple of weeks and even last week, too. Yeah, we came up a little bit short against a very

good team [and] it's a tough loss because right now our season is looking a little diminished, but you never know what can happen."

Head coach Tom Coughlin added that as "important" as the loss to the Cowboys was, the

Washington game holds more weight because "it's the next game" and also because it begins a stretch of five games that are essentially elimination contests for Big Blue.

"It's a battle of week to week in this league. Everyone knows [consistently winning] is the most difficult to do, so with that having been said, we'll just have to make the proper adjustments and away we go," Coughlin said. "We're very much aware of having dug ourselves a very, very deep hole. We made a little bit of progress to get out ... We need more, though. The challenge of this nature is what we call an opportunity [to have] a five-game schedule now. One game at a time and just prepare ourselves as best as we possibly can going forward [by] doing the very, very best we can and hopefully keep our dreams alive."

TONY WILLIAMS
sports@metro.us

3
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Top 3 storylines

Giants vs. Redskins: Three things to watch

Metro looks at three things to watch for in Sunday's game (8:30 p.m., NBC):

1 Getting defensive

Contrary to popular beliefs, the Giants defense isn't all that bad. They recently had a stretch end where they hadn't allowed a second-half touchdown

for over a month and have only allowed 23 touchdowns in 11 games.

2 Which Griffin shows?

If Washington is going to pull off the upset and save some face in this otherwise disastrous season, Griffin will need to look like the hotshot rookie dubbed "RG3" that tantalized the league last season preinjury. So far this season, Griffin has been up and down with his performances.



GRIFFIN HAS 14 TOUCHDOWNS, BUT ALSO 11 PICKS AND TWO FUMBLES.

GETTY IMAGES

This past week, an ugly loss to San Francisco was definitely the latter.

3 Where's the pass?

Giants quarterback Eli Manning has struggled this season, even during Big Blue wins, as he's connected on just 14 touchdowns and a league-high 17 interceptions. If there were ever a time to shake its doldrums, this week would be it — Washington has the 26th-ranked pass defense. **TONY WILLIAMS**

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The Jets and Dolphins haven't played since Oct. 28, 2012, before Mike Wallace was on the team. / GETTY IMAGES

Jets go into salvage mode

NFL. If New York is going to make a playoff run they can't afford to lose to the Dolphins.

The Jets are quickly entering must-win mode following their loss at Baltimore. They can lose one game of their remaining schedule and still have a decent shot at the playoffs, but if they intend to make the postseason, they can't drop one at home.

Metro breaks down what to watch for as they take on the Dolphins:

1 Been here before
Simply put, quarterback Geno Smith is costing the Jets games. He's struggling with his basics and the fundamental mechanics of his game and he isn't producing much offense. How bad is it? Smith is without a touchdown pass since Oct. 20, a staggering four full games. Against the Ravens last Sunday, he completed just 40.9 percent of his passes. "I didn't do enough, didn't get the job done. We didn't score a touchdown, so that's never good," Smith said. "Just didn't do enough. ... It's pretty simple."

2 Secondary schooled
The secondary was expected to have rough patches this year with the losses of All-Pro cornerback Darrelle Revis and the three top safeties from last season. The unit continues to give up big plays as it did on Sunday. Ravens quarterback Joe Flacco hit Jacoby Jones for 66 yards and Torrey Smith for 60 yards. The Jets are in the bottom third in the league in pass defense and against the likes of Mike Wallace and Brian Hartline, the Dolphins' top-two receiving threats, they will have to step up their game.

3 Band together
One thing head coach Rex Ryan did very well during his first two years with the Jets was unite amid controversy, a chip-on-the-shoulder mentality that carried them to consecutive AFC Championship game appearances. But over the past two years, Ryan has been unable to bring the Jets together in the same way. "I think our team understands that this is about us," Ryan said. "That's what is so good about our room."

KRISTIAN DYER
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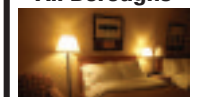
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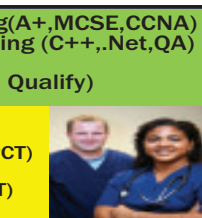
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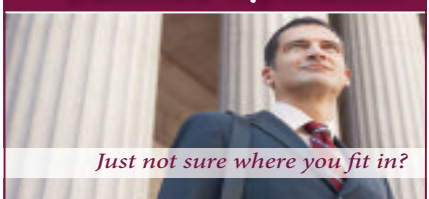
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